

# the milliwatt



The award-winning monthly publication of  
The Baltimore Radio Amateur Television Society  
P.O. Box 5915 Baltimore, MD 21282-5915

**DECEMBER, 2017**

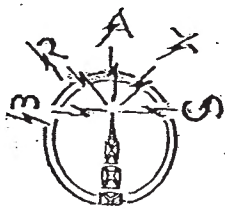
## **NEXT Monthly BRATS MEETING- HOLIDAY PARTY!**

**Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM Greene Turtle, Owings Mills**  
Off Red Run Boulevard, In the meeting room. Elections will be held.  
See slate on Page 3-4

### **Amateur Radio-Carrying D-Star One CubeSat Among Spacecraft Apparently Lost:**

The first Amateur Radio satellite to employ the D-Star digital voice and data format -- D-Star One -- was among about 20 secondary payloads lost on November 28 after an otherwise nominal launch of a three-stage Soyuz 2.1 booster from the new Vostochny Cosmodrome in the far reaches of eastern Russia. The mission carried the Russian Meteor M2-1 satellite -- the primary payload -- as well as a Canadian Telestar experimental satellite, and 17 other secondary payloads, including D-Star One. According to reports, a fault occurred in the sophisticated and autonomous Fregat upper stage, which, after separating from the launch vehicle, inserts multiple spacecraft into their respective orbits. A so-called "space tug," Fregat has been in service for nearly 2 decades and has suffered three previous failures. Russian space agency Roscosmos is investigating the Fregat failure. D-Star One, the first German commercial CubeSat, carried four communication modules, two designated for Amateur Radio use. D-Star One was developed by German Orbital Systems in cooperation with the Czech company iSky Technology as part of a plan to eventually assemble a low-Earth orbit communication network. "Hopefully, we'll get another chance to utilize D-Star communications with a satellite repeater sometime in the future," Wayne Day, N5WD, commented on the AMSAT-BB.

## **SEASONS GREETINGS**



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The award-winning monthly  
publication of The BRATS.  
Items herein may be reprinted  
with appropriate credit.

Mayer D. Zimmerman, W3GXX, Editor

## Some Thoughts

It's that time again. No hamfests  
Until February. A few contests,  
Especially if you like CW. Come  
To the meeting and our annual  
Holiday party. Vote in the elections.  
Have a happy holiday and a healthy  
new year. 73, Mayer, W3GXX

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The Baltimore Radio Amateur TV Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 5915 Baltimore, MD 21282  
A non-profit organization under section 501 (c) (3)  
of the internal Revenue Code and a non-profit  
corporation in the State of Maryland  
Member: ARRL, Foundation for Amateur Radio  
Home Page: <http://www.bratsatv.org>  
Email: [brats@bratsatv.org](mailto:brats@bratsatv.org)  
Meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday,

President.: Kevin Sherwood, KB3PLX  
Vice Pres; Oryx Gazella, K0RYX  
Secretary: Ted Bauer, WA3AER  
Treasurer: Jim Sherwood, KB3SKN  
Chairman of the Board:  
Mayer D. Zimmerman, W3GXX

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## BRATS REPEATERS

Linked, WB3DZO  
147.03+, 224.96, 448.325-  
Stand alone:  
443.350+, 224.8-  
Packet Nodes:  
W3GXT-5 145.05  
W3GXT-10 224.52  
ATV repeaters W3WCO  
inputs: 426.25, 1253.25  
Outputs: 439.25, 911.25

## BRATS WEEKLY NETS

Monday 9 PM Traffic and Info  
Tues. 11:45 Informal ATV  
Wednes. 9 PM CATS ATV  
Thurs 9 PM BRATS ATV  
Sat. 1 PM Weekly News Bul  
Sun 8 PM BRATS ATV net  
AS Needed: Skywarn

## BRATS Board of Directors

Through December, 2018  
K2GZL, N3GXH  
Through December, 2017  
W3MSR, K9FXV

## 2018 Meeting Dates, Places

Some meetings at a BCPL  
Library, some at Greene Turtle,  
Owings mills, some via  
teleconference.  
Check The BRATS Home Page to  
See where the next meeting will be

## Listen to the weekly News

Bulletin on 147.03/R

Saturday at 1 PM

Join us for the weekly

Traffic and info Net on

Mondays at 9PM on 147.03/R

**Baltimore Radio Amateur TV Society**  
**MINUTES of the 13 November 2017 Monthly Meeting**

KevinS, KB3PLX, chaired the teleconference meeting.

**/REPORTS**

- Minutes: October meeting Minutes accepted, approved.
- Treasurer: no report
- Repeater/Equipment: Network, repeaters down over the past weekend due to faulty UPS that did not restart cleanly. Backup gateway placed in service and repeater operations restored. Will place primary gateway back in operation after being serviced later this week. 440MHz back in operation. North Baltimore site expected to be again fully operational by this weekend.  
ATV will have low-level exciters driving Mirage replaced with KH6HTV model 70-9B. Unit is also digital capable and only having one RF exciter will simplify wiring (which will also be updated and replaced with proper wiring and connectors).
- Events: JOTA successful. Good attendance. Began discussion for next year events; props to show how radio works; and possibly expand Morse Code demo, training. Mentioned inclusion of phonetic alphabet for Scouts use.  
MS Challenge Walk had no issues. Support greatly appreciated, acknowledged by MS Society letter. Used DR2X for portable operation y.

**/OLD BUSINESS**

- Events: see Events under Reports header.
- Holiday Party/December Meeting: meeting, Holiday Party and 2018 elections will be at Greene Turtle, Owings Mills, 6:30 – 8:30PM. Please support Green Turtle.

(Continued next page)

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**W1AW to Begin Scheduled Transmissions on 6 Meters Starting January 2, 2018:**  
Beginning with the 9 AM EST fast code practice on Tuesday, January 2, 2018, W1AW will add 6 meters - specifically 50350 kHz - to its regular CW code practice, and CW, digital and phone bulletin transmission schedule. Prior to late 1989, W1AW had a presence on 6 meters for all its CW practice, and regular bulletins. Since that time however, the station was absent on 6 meters, with the exception of regular visitor operations and contests. In addition to providing regularly scheduled transmissions on 6 meters, another goal is to act as a beacon on 6 meters, especially from the Northeast US.

## New FM Repeater Satellite

A new easy-to-use amateur radio satellite was launched last weekend and was switched on for general use on Thursday. AO-91, also known as RadFxSat and Fox-1B is a Cubesat that carries an FM transponder. The uplink is on 435.250MHz FM, plus or minus Doppler, with a mandatory 67Hz CTCSS tone for access. The downlink is on 145.960MHz FM. The present position of the satellite can be seen at [www.n2yo.com](http://www.n2yo.com) and all amateurs are invited to listen out for the bird. The northernmost point of its orbit periodically passes roughly over Bedford, meaning that it will give good service over the whole of the British Isles, Europe, and beyond. Full details about the satellite are on the AMSAT-UK website. By coincidence another AMSAT mission, FUNcube-1, also known as AO-73, celebrated its fourth birthday in space this week. It has travelled well over 500 million miles in orbit since launch and been received tens of thousands of times.

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\*(Continued from previous page)

### /NEW BUSINESS

- Events: MS Nations Capitol Ride, Sep. 29, 2018, will require more volunteers to cover event footprint. KevinS to visit NoVA ARCs to see about repeater coverage, usage, and volunteers. Also discussed talking with MS Society, District Heights, MARC, and CARA for volunteers and coordination.
- 2018 Officers/Board Nominations:

President	- KevinS, KB3PLX
VP	- OryxG, K0RYX
Treas	- JimS, KB3SKN
Sec	- TedB, WA3AER
Board Chair	- EdR, K3GXH
Board	- ShanelL, K2GZL
Board	- SteveR, KA2ZMN

Elections will be held at the December meeting.

- 2018 Meetings: Annual Board Meeting will be held in January. Remaining 2018 meetings will be both on site and teleconferences.

# FCC Dismisses Radio Amateur's Petition to Revise Call Sign

## Rules: The FCC has

dismissed [http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily\\_Releases/Daily\\_Business/2017/db1128/DA-17-1146A1.pdf](http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2017/db1128/DA-17-1146A1.pdf) a rule-making petition filed last May by Thomas J. Alessi, K1TA, of Stamford, Connecticut, that sought to amend the Part 97 rules regarding Amateur Radio Service call signs. The Commission action came in a November 28 letter from Scot Stone, Deputy Chief of the FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Mobility Division. Alessi had asked the FCC to make call signs consisting of one letter, followed by two digits, followed by one letter (1 × 1 format) available to Amateur Extra-class licensees. Alessi asserted that the number of Amateur Extra-class licensees who desire short call signs exceeds the available supply of 1 × 2 and 2 × 1 call signs, and that his plan would make available an additional 7,800 four-character call signs.

"Approximately fifteen million call signs are presently available in the sequential call sign system, but it does not include every amateur call sign that has been allocated to the United States," Stone wrote in denying Alessi's petition. He also pointed out that the FCC had rejected a similar suggestion in 2010 that would have made certain additional call signs, including 1 × 1 call signs, available to Amateur Extra-class licensees, but concluded at the time that enough call signs were already available for every Amateur Radio licensee to obtain an acceptable call sign. In addition, the FCC said in 2010 that it had no plans to revisit the issue. "You have not demonstrated any changed circumstances or other reason that would warrant revisiting this decision," Stone's letter concluded.

## ARRL DX BULLETIN

**WEST MALAYSIA, 9M2.** Rich, PA0RRS is QRV as 9M2MRS from Penang Island, IOTA AS-015, until January 31, 2018. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and PSK. QSL to home call.

**THE GAMBIA, C5.** Andre, ON7YK is QRV as C5YK from Bijilo until January 30, 2018. Activity is on 40 to 6 meters using FT8 and some CW. QSL to home call.

**GALAPAGOS ISLANDS, HC8.** A group of operators are QRV as HC8LUT from San Cristobal Island, IOTA SA-004, until December 8. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using all modes. QSL via IK2DUW.

**SVALBARD, JW.** Erik, LA2US is QRV as JW2US from Bear Island, IOTA EU-027, until June 2018. Activity is in his spare time on the HF bands using CW, RTTY, PSK and FT8. QSL to home call.

## **BARC VE EXAMS**

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church  
905 Frederick Rd. Catonsville, MD

Registration begins at 2:00 PM

Exams begin at 2:30 PM

**NO ONE ADMITTED AFTER  
EXAMS BEGIN**

pre-register by email:  
[info@veteam.org](mailto:info@veteam.org)

## **NEXT VE EXAMS:**

Saturday, January 6, 2018

## **WA7BNM Contest Calendar**

Dec 16-17 Croatian Contest, CW  
Dec. 17 ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW  
Dec. 19 Russian 160 M Contest  
Dec. 20 QRP Foxhunt

Jan 1 SART New Year RTTY  
AGCW VHF/UHF Contest  
Jan 3 UKEICC 80m Contest  
Jan 4 NRAU 10m Activity Cont.  
Jan 5 NCCC RTTY Sprint  
Jan 6-7 ARRL RTTY Roundup

## **Status Report: The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2017:**

The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2017 - S. 1534 <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/1534> is alive, but with legislative action slowed to a glacial pace on Capitol Hill in recent months, there's been no real progress to report since this past summer. At present, the bill is under consideration by the US Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and it remains an active concern for ARRL. The League is working diligently to shake the bill loose and move it forward.

While it may appear that time is short, S. 1534 does not need to pass the Senate by year's end. The bill remains in play until the current session of Congress adjourns, which doesn't happen until December 31, 2018. Once the bill has been passed by both chambers, the FCC would still have to implement its essence in the Part 97 Amateur Service rules.

Introduced on July 12, S. 1534 marked another step forward for the landmark legislation. Senators Roger Wicker (R-MS) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) sponsored the bill in the Senate. The US House version of the legislation, HR 555, passed the House of Representatives by unanimous consent last January.



## Milliwatt Swap Shop\

Ads are free...

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HRO price \$199. N3BHE  
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charger, 12vDC, 200 ma for ICOM  
T8A or equivalent, cost \$46.  
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Balto. 21211, 410-467-3620  
[wa3tad@comcast.net](mailto:wa3tad@comcast.net)

WANTED AC Gilbert erector sets  
Old, new, large, small, need not be  
Complete. CASH PAID!  
Lewis, 410-296-4874.

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WB2LOO, gkm313@verizon.net.

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if you sent it to us. Send your ad to  
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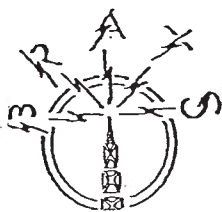
Joe and Crew, JHS 22 ARC (WB2JKJ)

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Renew: Regular \$15; retired/student/disabled \$10; Family \$20

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO: BRATS, P.O. Box 5915; Baltimore, MD 21282-5915



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## **IARU Cites Progress Toward 50 MHz Region 1 Allocation:**

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU <http://www.iau.org>) says "significant progress" was made during World Radiocommunication Conference 2019 (WRC-19) preparations that took place earlier this month at International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Headquarters in Geneva. But the IARU cautioned that a lot remains to be done before the "reservations and concerns of regulators and spectrum users are adequately satisfied."

For the team representing IARU in Working Party 5A (WP 5A) of ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R), the main focus was on the WRC-19 agenda item that will consider an Amateur Radio allocation in Region 1 from 50 to 54 MHz that is similar to the one available in Regions 2 and 3. The current, mainly secondary, allocation of 50-52 MHz in most European countries is a regional agreement. Delegates to the meeting considered input documents from IARU, France, the Russian Federation, and Switzerland. A rough consensus was achieved on the text that will provide the technical basis for discussions concerning the access to 50-54 MHz for the Amateur Service in Region 1.

Other key issues affecting the Amateur Service that remain to be addressed prior to WRC-19 include securing protection for Amateur Service primary allocations at 24 GHz and 47 GHz and minimizing possible interference arising from Wireless Power Transmission (WPT) for the charging of electric vehicles. Read more <http://www.arrl.org/news/iau-cites-progress-toward-50-mhz-region-1-allocation>. -- Thanks to the IARU

# **HAPPY HOLIDAYS**